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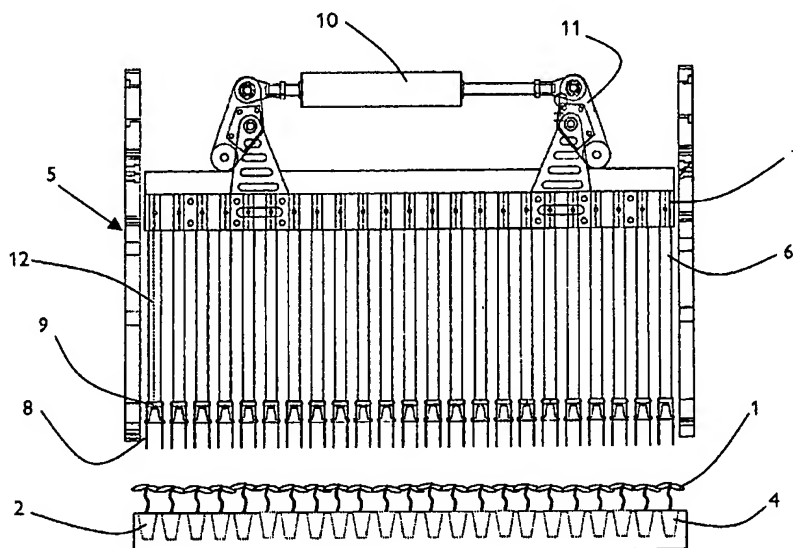
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(54) Title: **AUTOMATED PLANTER**



(57) Abstract: An automated planter is described and claimed, the planter comprising: locating means arranged to locate a propagation tray (2); plant extraction means (5) adapted to pull a plant out of a propagation tray (2) located by the locating means; and delivery means arranged to receive a plant extracted by the plant extraction means (5) and deliver the received plant to the ground. Preferably, the planter lifts the plants out of their cells in the tray by inserting fingers (8), which are caused to converge to pinch the root ball (4). Preferably, the transport means comprises two tracks, such that one can be loaded while the other is transporting plants to the planting device. A corresponding method of extracting and planting plants from propagation trays (2) is also claimed.



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